BRITISH COLUMBIA
CANADA

Small Business Profile 2015

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ministry of
Small Business and
Red Tape Reduction

BCStats

Small Business Profile 2015

A profile of small business in British Columbia

Information on programs and services for small businesses can be obtained by contacting:

Small Business BC
601 West Cordova St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 1G1
Telephone: 604.775.5525
Toll Free: 1.800.667.2272
Internet: www.smallbusinessbc.ca

Statistics related to small business are available at:

BC Stats
563 Superior St.
Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1
Toll Free: 1.800.663.7867
Internet: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

Information on provincial government programs and services can be found at:

Ministry of Small Business, Red Tape Reduction and Minister Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch
Small Business Branch
Box 9822 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9N3
Telephone: 250.387.4699
Fax: 250.952.0113
Internet: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/small-business-red-tape-reduction-responsible-for-liquor-distribution

This publication is also available electronically on the following website:

www.gov.bc.ca

Contents

Preface	1
Highlights	2
1 Small Business and Industries	4
2 Small Business Exports	8
3 Small Business Employment in B.C.	10
4 Small Business Regions	14
5 Provincial Comparisons	16
6 Contribution to the Economy and Trends	20
… Success Stories	22
Technical Notes	24
Glossary	25
End Notes	27
Small Business Resources	29

Preface

Small Business Profile 2015: A Profile of Small Business in British Columbia is an update of previous versions published annually since 1997. The 2015 report reflects data from 2013 for information on small business exporters and 2014 for information on all other indicators. These are the most recent years for which data are available. This report is designed to answer some common questions about the role of small business in B.C. by examining trends in growth and, where possible, offering cross-provincial comparisons. Key indicators examined in this report include the number of businesses, employment and earnings, contribution to the economy, industry distribution, regional details, and the role of small business exporters.

Statistical information in this report was prepared by BC Stats using data provided by Statistics Canada from various statistical databases, such as the *Business Register*, the *Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours*, the *Labour Force Survey* and the *Exporter Register.*

Small Business Profile 2015 is produced by the Government of British Columbia. The report was prepared by BC Stats in the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services in partnership with the Ministry of Small Business, Red Tape Reduction and Minister Responsible for the Liquor Distribution Branch.

Highlights

- **Small Business** – There were approximately 382,600 small businesses operating in B.C. in 2014, representing about 98 per cent of all businesses in the province. Around four out of every five of these small businesses were micro-businesses with fewer than five employees. While the total of small businesses in B.C. slipped by 3.1 per cent between 2009 and 2014, this was primarily due to a reduction in the number of self-employed individuals. The number of small businesses with employees saw a boost of 5.8 per cent.

SMALL BUSINESS

	Number of businesses	Per cent of total	Growth 2009-2014 (#)	Growth rate 2009-2014
Total businesses with 0 to 4 employees	**309,300**	**79%**	**-14,300**	**-4.5%**
Self-employed without paid help	199,900	51%	-21,700	-9.8%
Businesses with 1 to 4 employees	109,400	28%	7,400	7.7%
Businesses with 5 to 9 employees	36,300	9%	500	1.5%
Businesses with 10 to 19 employees	22,700	6%	700	3.3%
Businesses with 20 to 49 employees	14,400	4%	900	7.0%
Total small businesses	**382,600**	**98%**	**-12,100**	**-3.1%**
Total large businesses	**7,600**	**2%**	**200**	**3.6%**
Total all businesses	**390,300**	**100%**	**-11,800**	**-3.0%**

- **Small Businesses Per Capita** – B.C. ranked first in the country (tied with Saskatchewan) in terms of small businesses per capita in 2014, with 82.6 small businesses per 1,000 people. The national average was 70.9.
- **Regional Focus** –Vancouver Island/Coast is home to a larger proportion of small businesses than its share of B.C.'s population.

REGIONAL

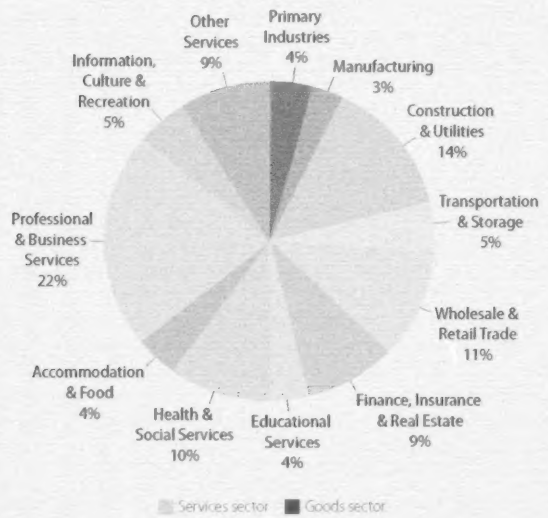
- **Employment** – In 2014, an estimated 1,010,800 people worked in small businesses in British Columbia. These jobs accounted for 54 per cent of private-sector employment in the province.

EMPLOYMENT

	Employment	Per cent of total
Total small business employment	1,010,800	54%
Self-employed	395,900	21%
Employed by small business	614,900	33%
Large business employment	847,800	46%
Total private-sector employment	1,858,600	100%

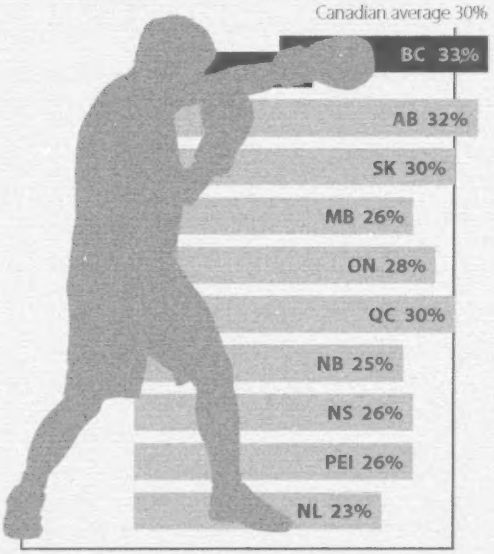
- **Industry** – More than three quarters of all businesses in the province are in service sector industries. In the small business service sector, the largest concentration is in professional and business services, which in 2014 accounted for 22 per cent of all B.C. small businesses.

INDUSTRY



- **Gross Domestic Product** – B.C. small businesses generated approximately 33 per cent of the province's gross domestic product in 2014, well above the Canadian average of 30 per cent and the highest ratio among the provinces.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT



- **Exports** – B.C. small business exporters shipped approximately $11 billion worth of merchandise to international destinations in 2013, accounting for just over a third of the total value of goods exported from the province.

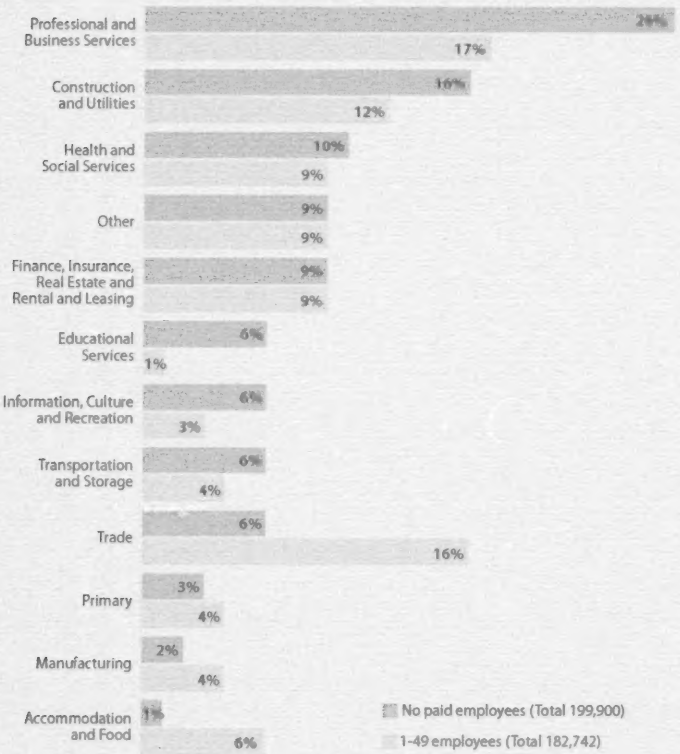
1 Small Business and Industries

FIGURE 1.1: SMALL BUSINESSES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA (2014)

	Number of businesses	Per cent of total	Growth 2009-2014 (#)	Growth rate 2009-2014
Total businesses with 0 to 4 employees	**309,300**	**79%**	**-14,300**	**-4.5%**
Self-employed without paid help†	199,900	51%	-21,700	-9.8%
Businesses with 1 to 4 employees	109,400	28%	7,400	7.7%
Businesses with 5 to 9 employees	36,300	9%	500	1.5%
Businesses with 10 to 19 employees	22,700	6%	700	3.3%
Businesses with 20 to 49 employees	14,400	4%	900	7.0%
Total small businesses‡	**382,600**	**98%**	**-12,100**	**-3.1%**
Total large businesses	**7,600**	**2%**	**200**	**3.6%**
Total all businesses	**390,300**	**100%**	**-11,800**	**-3.0%**

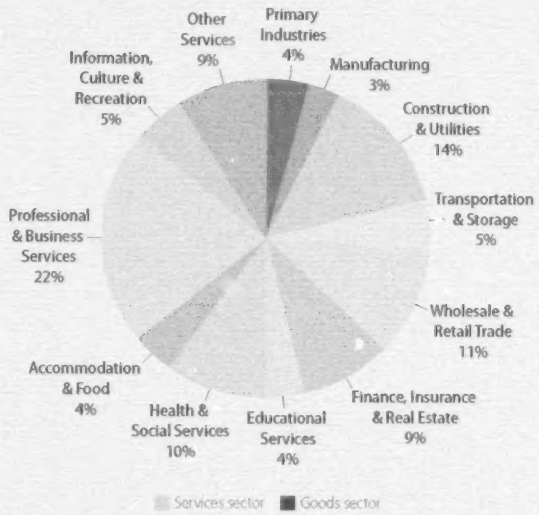
† Incorporated self-employed are not included in this figure to avoid double-counting, since they are already included in the count of businesses with fewer than 50 employees.
‡ Figures do not add due to rounding.
Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada.

FIGURE 1.2A: INDUSTRY FOCUS: SMALL BUSINESS REPRESENTATION WITH AND WITHOUT EMPLOYEES (2014)



Note: "Primary Industries" comprises agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas industries.
Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada.

FIGURE 1.2B: TOTAL SMALL BUSINESSES (2014) WITH 0-49 EMPLOYEES



Note: "Primary Industries" comprises agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas industries.
Businesses for which the industry is unclassified are excluded from the percentage calculation.
Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada.

Small Business and Industries

B.C.'s small business sector has established itself as an integral instrument of job creation and economic growth. It is the primary provider of private sector jobs in the province, reflecting an important and ongoing trend toward economic diversification. The small business sector is also a key source of innovation.

Given its impact on the provincial economy, it is important to monitor the performance of the small business sector. Measures such as business counts, employment, GDP and revenues are useful indicators that offer an objective view of the size and health of the sector.

How many businesses operate in British Columbia and is that number growing?

In 2014, B.C. was home to a total of 390,300 businesses, of which 98 per cent (382,600) were classified as small businesses. Between June 2009 and June 2014, the number of small businesses operating in the province declined by 3.1 per cent.[1] While the number of small businesses with employees saw a boost of 5.8 per cent, the overall reduction in small businesses was attributable to a 9.8 per cent drop in businesses operated by unincorporated self-employed individuals without paid help. The fastest growing group in the small business sector was businesses with one to four employees, which increased at a rate of 7.7 per cent, an addition of approximately 7,400 net new businesses. The large business sector (50 or more paid employees) fared better over the same period, climbing 3.6 per cent.

Various factors could account for the reduction in small businesses. Faced with a widespread economic downturn that began in late 2008, it is possible that a number of small businesses shed employees, with some owners perhaps even opting to run their businesses alone. It is also conceivable that in times of job uncertainty, individuals who faced layoffs or lack of job security chose self-employment. In the years that followed, as the economy showed signs of recovery, some self-employed may have returned to the employee workforce, resulting in a drop in the number of self-employed. Another possibility is some self-employed without staff may have hired employees. Similarly, some small businesses may have grown into larger businesses, thereby reducing the overall number of small businesses.

What is the size distribution of small businesses?

The majority of small businesses in B.C. are micro-businesses with fewer than five employees. In 2014, about 309,300 businesses fit this description, comprising approximately four out of five of all small businesses. Of these, almost two-thirds were self-employed persons without paid help.

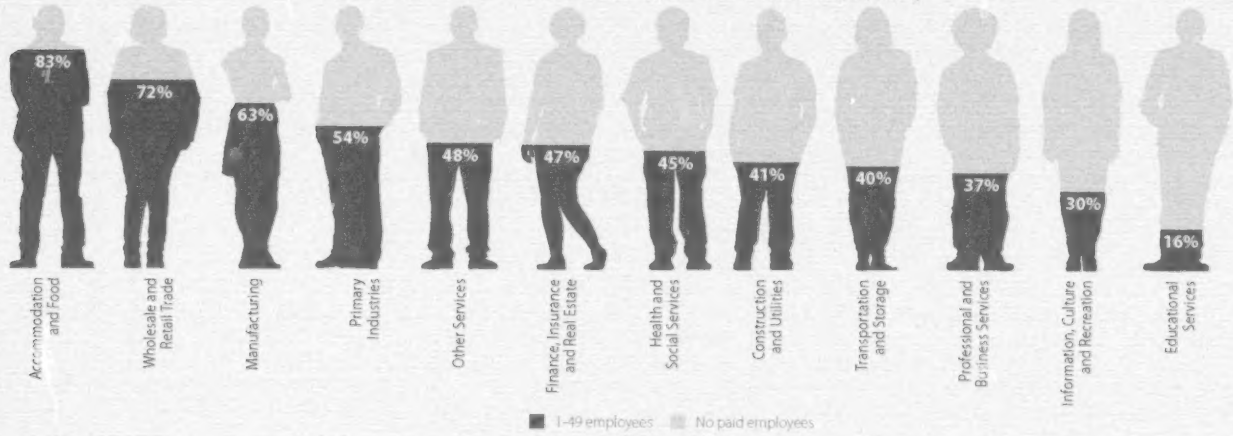
In which sectors are small businesses concentrated?

More than three quarters (79 per cent) of all businesses in the province are in service sector industries. In the small business service sector, the largest concentration is in professional and business services, which, in 2014, accounted for 22 per cent of all small businesses in British Columbia.[2] Figure 1.2a shows the industry breakdown for small businesses with employees compared to that for businesses operated by a self-employed person with no staff. Figure 1.2b provides the same dissection for small business overall.

Within the small business sector, certain industries are dominated by businesses without employees, while the opposite is true for some others.

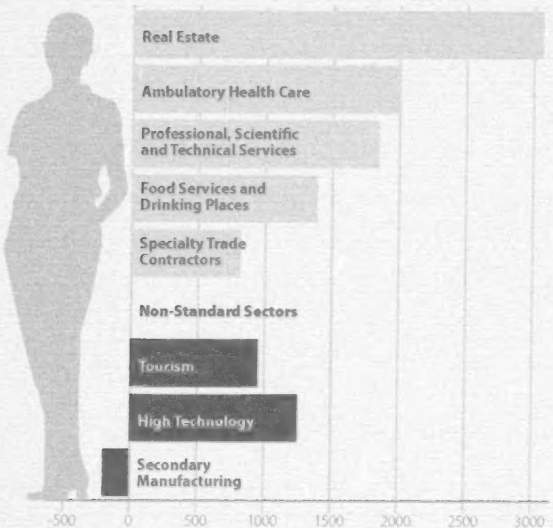
1 Small Business and Industries

FIGURE 1.3: COUNT OF SMALL BUSINESSES BY INDUSTRY (2014)



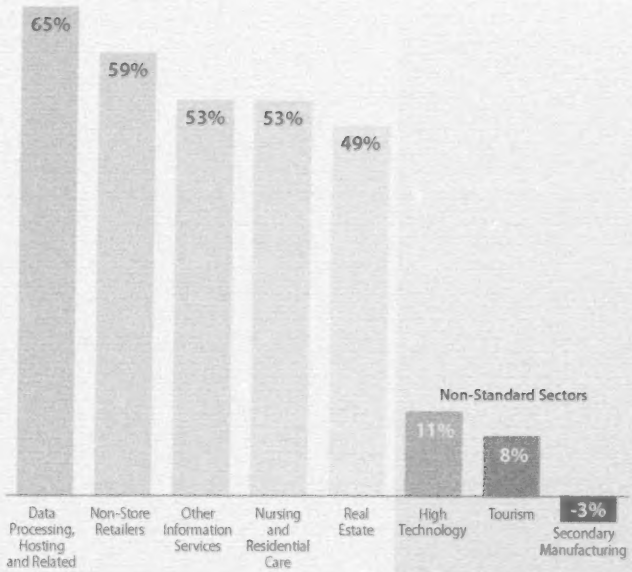
Note: "Primary Industries" comprises agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas industries.
Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

FIGURE 1.4: FASTEST GROWING SECTORS AND NON-STANDARD SECTORS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA NUMBER OF NET NEW SMALL BUSINESSES (2009-2014 JUNE OVER JUNE)



Note: Excludes self-employed without paid help (see Endnote 3)
Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

FIGURE 1.5: SECTOR GROWTH RATES FOR NUMBER OF SMALL BUSINESSES (2009-2014 JUNE OVER JUNE)

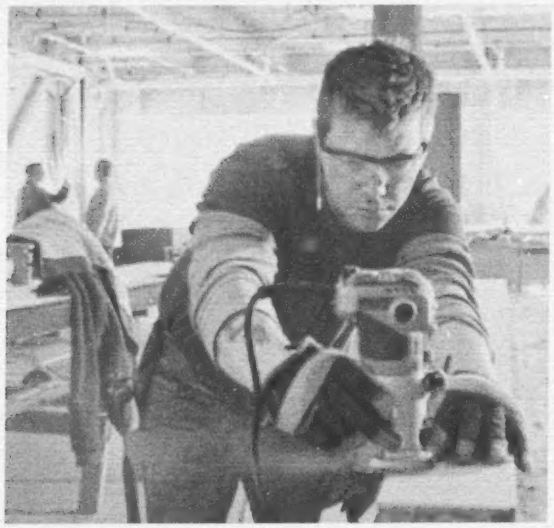


Note: Excludes self-employed without paid help (see Endnote 3)
Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

Non-Standard Industries

This report contains information on non-standard industries that are not defined under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) used by Statistics Canada. The tourism, high technology and secondary manufacturing sectors are called "non-standard industries" in this report and are, in fact, composites of smaller parts of traditionally defined industries under NAICS. Tourism, for example, includes data from parts of the transportation industry, accommodation and food services, and information, culture and recreation services, among others. High technology includes both manufacturing and services components.

Historically, B.C.'s economy has been dominated by resource extraction-based industries, particularly forestry and mining. These industries are still important but are increasingly complemented by sectors such as tourism and high technology, which continue to grow and have become critical sectors in the provincial economy. High technology and tourism, in particular, are well-suited for development by small business as they are not reliant on capital-intensive resource extraction activities. While the secondary manufacturing sector has experienced some reductions in business counts over the last decade, it is still important, as adding value to goods stands out as a potential source of future economic growth in the province.



Which industries show the greatest increase in the number of small businesses?

Between June 2009 and June 2014, the real estate sales and services sector recorded the most notable small business growth in terms of numbers, with a net addition of over 3,000 establishments.[3] Over the same period, both the tourism and high technology sectors saw an increase in small businesses; however, the province's secondary manufacturing sector experienced a net loss of nearly 200 businesses. The downward trend in secondary manufacturing is not unique to British Columbia. Factors such as increased competition from other countries and a reduction in demand have impacted the manufacturing sector as a whole across North America.

Which industries show the fastest rates of growth in new businesses?

Among the standard industries,[4] between 2009 and 2014, the fastest rate of growth in number of small businesses was for those involved in data processing, hosting and related services, at 65.2 per cent.

Among the non-standard sectors, the strongest growth between 2009 and 2014 was in high technology, which added new businesses at the rate of 11.3 per cent.

2 Small Business Exports

FIGURE 2.1: EXPORTERS AND EXPORT VALUES
BRITISH COLUMBIA* (2013)

	Number of businesses	Value of exports ($millions)
Small business exporters	5,032	$11,038
Large business exporters	850	$21,807
Total all exporters	5,882	$32,845

*Includes data for the Territories [see Endnote 5]
Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

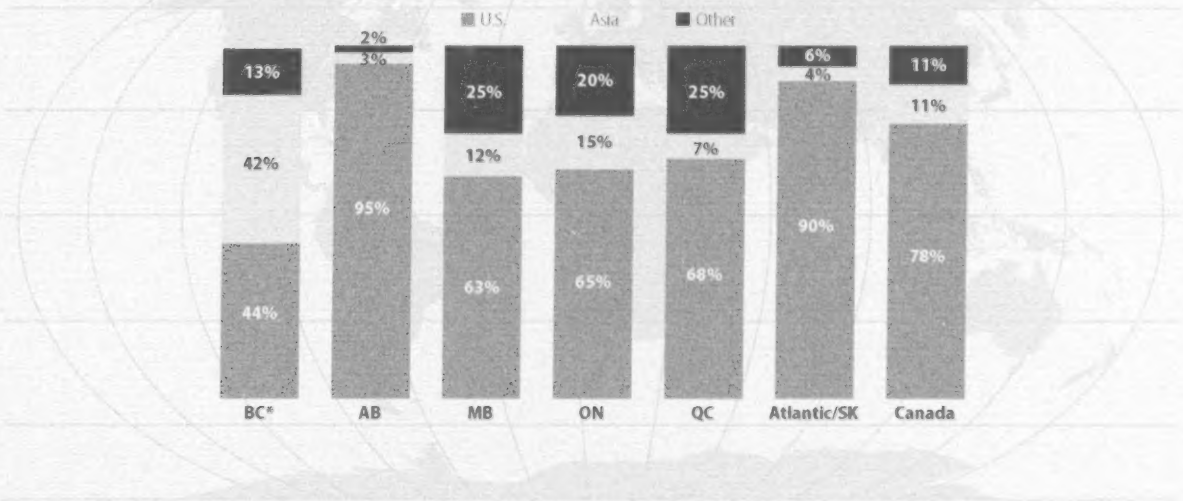
FIGURE 2.2: EXPORT DESTINATIONS AND VALUES
BRITISH COLUMBIA* (2013)

Small businesses	Business count	Export value
U.S. only	53%	12%
Non-U.S. only	27%	24%
Both U.S. and non-U.S.	20%	65%

Large businesses	Business count	Export value
U.S. only	45%	6%
Non-U.S. only	11%	6%
Both U.S. and non-U.S.	44%	88%

*Includes data for the Territories [see Endnote 5]
Figures do not add to 100 per cent due to rounding
Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

FIGURE 2.3: PROVINCIAL COMPARISON: SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTS DESTINATION AND VALUE (2013)



*Includes data for the Territories [see Endnote 5]
Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

Small Business Exports

How many small businesses in British Columbia export?

In 2013,[5] a total of 5,882 businesses exported goods from B.C. to international destinations. Of these, 5,032 were businesses with fewer than 50 employees, comprising almost 86 per cent of all exporting businesses.[6] These small business exporters account for only 1.3 per cent of all B.C. small businesses, which indicates that 98.7 per cent of small businesses in the province did not export goods in 2013.

There could be a number or reasons why such a small percentage of small businesses export goods, including the high start-up costs associated with an exporting business and the need to achieve economies of scale to compete internationally. In addition, given that over three-quarters of small businesses are in the service sector, it is more likely that they would be exporters of services, rather than goods. Unfortunately, there are no data available that break out service exports by size of business, so a comparison of large and small business service exports is not possible.

Despite the fact that only a small fraction of B.C. small businesses were goods exporters in 2013, they were responsible for just over a third of the total value of provincial commodity exports.

What is the destination of goods shipped by British Columbia small business exporters?

The primary destination for small business goods exports is the United States. In 2013, approximately 53 per cent of B.C. small business exporters shipped their goods exclusively to the United States and another 20 per cent exported to both the U.S. and at least one other country. Only 27 per cent of small business exporters shipped solely to non-U.S. destinations.

While more than half of B.C.'s small business exporters shipped solely to the United States, those businesses were responsible for only 12 per cent of the value of small business exports. The story was similar for larger exporters, of which 45 per cent shipped solely to the United States, but were responsible for only 6 per cent of exports.

It is generally more expensive to ship to non-U.S. destinations as a result of longer transport distances, as well as time zone, regulatory/import requirements and language differences, which add to the cost of marketing and distribution. Therefore, it makes sense that exporters need to ship larger volumes to these destinations in order to achieve economies of scale and defray some of their expenses. For nearby U.S. destinations, it can still be economical to export smaller volumes.

B.C. small business exporters are fairly unique in that less than half the value of the province's total small business exports (44 per cent) is shipped to the United States. The only other province for which this is true is Newfoundland and Labrador (38 per cent). In fact, small business exporters in B.C. ship almost as much to Asia (42 per cent) as to the United States. Contrast this with Alberta, where 95 per cent of small business exports are to the United States.

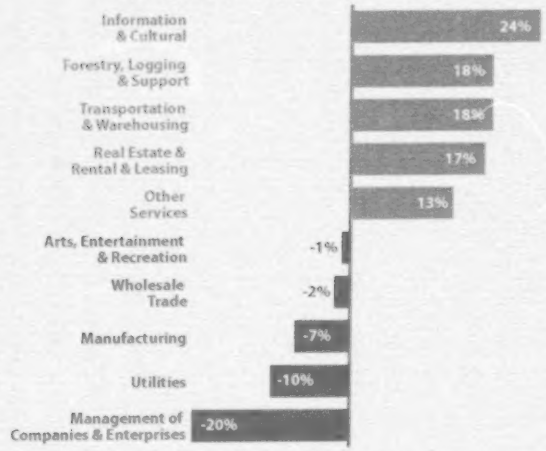
3 Small Business Employment in B.C.

FIGURE 3.1: PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA (2014)

	Employment	Per cent of total
Total small business employment	1,010,800	54%
Self-employed	395,900	21%
Employed by small business	614,900	33%
Large business employment	847,800	46%
Total private-sector employment	1,858,600	100%

Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

FIGURE 3.2: EMPLOYMENT GROWTH AND DECLINE TOP AND BOTTOM FIVE INDUSTRIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA (2009-2014)



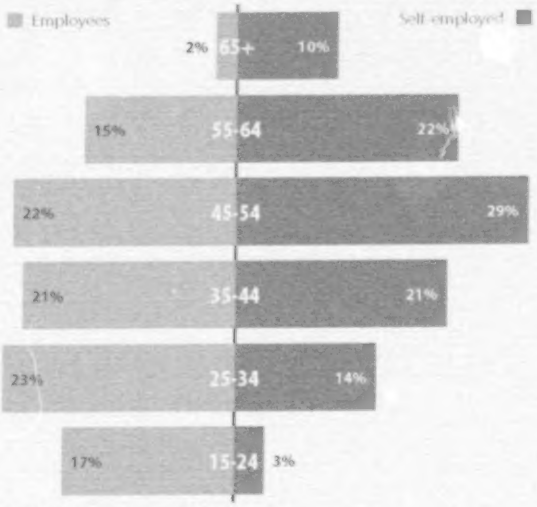
Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

FIGURE 3.3: SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROFILE: BUSINESS OWNERS BRITISH COLUMBIA (2014)

	With paid help	Without paid help	Total	Per cent
Incorporated	92,400	75,400	167,800	43%
Unincorporated	27,000	199,900	226,900	57%
Total self-employment	119,400	275,300	394,700	100%

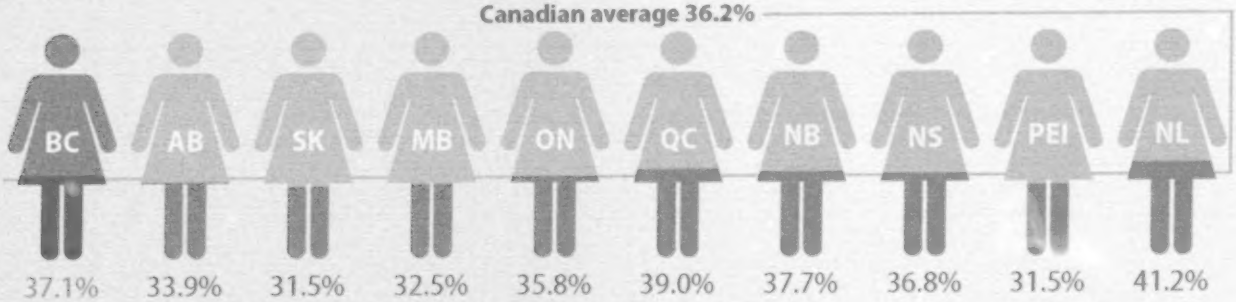
Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

FIGURE 3.4: SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROFILE: AGE DISTRIBUTION BRITISH COLUMBIA (2014)



Note: Percentages do not add due to rounding.
Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

FIGURE 3.5: SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROFILE: WOMEN PROPORTION OF SELF-EMPLOYED BY PROVINCE (2014)



Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

Small Business Employment in B.C.

How many jobs does small business provide in British Columbia?

In 2014, approximately 1,010,800 jobs in B.C. were derived from small business, accounting for 44 per cent of total employment in the province. Large private sector businesses were responsible for 37 per cent of all jobs, with the remaining 18 per cent provided by the public sector.

The private sector (both small and large businesses) employed approximately 1,858,600 people. The 1,010,800 people working for a small business translates into 54 per cent of private sector jobs, a ratio that has been slowly declining over the past couple of decades.

In 2014, small business employment slipped 0.7 per cent from 2013 levels. Given the uncertain economic climate of recent years, some volatility in employment is to be expected; however, this decline was in direct contrast to large business, which saw employment climb by 3.0 per cent.

The decline in small business employment in 2014 was entirely due to a 4.7 per cent drop in the number of self-employed as the number of employees of small business climbed 2.0 per cent. In 2014, there were 39,000 more small business employees in B.C. than in 2009, a 6.8 per cent increase over the five-year period. However, this increase was not enough to offset a 10.5 per cent decline in self-employment, such that overall small business employment (including self-employed) fell 0.7 per cent between 2009 and 2014. By comparison, employment in large businesses increased 9.8 per cent over the same period.

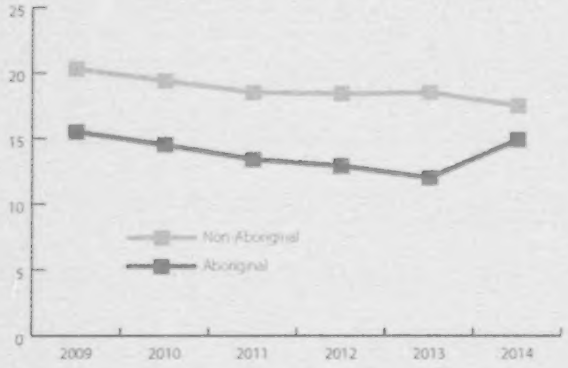
Which industries are experiencing the most job growth?

With a net addition of nearly 10,300 jobs between 2009 and 2014, the accommodation and food services industry recorded the highest growth (in numbers) in employment for small businesses in British Columbia.[7] The fastest rate of growth in small business jobs was in information and cultural services, which saw a 24.5 per cent jump in employment, or 1,900 net new jobs.

At the other end of the spectrum, job losses were most heavily concentrated in manufacturing, which saw small business employment fall by nearly 3,400 jobs. The fastest rate of decline in employment was in management of companies and enterprises, at 20.3 per cent (almost 1,500 jobs). The secondary manufacturing sector has experienced some reductions in business counts over the last decade, a pattern that is consistent across the country. The sector continues to contribute to B.C.'s economy as adding value to goods remains a potential source of future economic growth in the province.

3 Small Business Employment in B.C.

FIGURE 3.6: SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROFILE: ABORIGINAL ENTREPRENEURS PER CENT OF WORKING, OFF-RESERVE ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL SELF-EMPLOYED BRITISH COLUMBIA (2009-2014)



Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

FIGURE 3.7: SELF-EMPLOYMENT PROFILE: HOURS WORKED BRITISH COLUMBIA (2014)

Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

Self-Employment Feature

What proportion of total employment consists of the self-employed?

The self-employed represented 17.4 per cent of the total workforce in B.C. in 2014. In 2009, this figure reached a decade high of 20.2 per cent likely due to an increase in people seeking self-employment when jobs and job opportunities disappeared during the global economic downturn. Self-employment in the province has been slowly inching down since 2009 as the job market recovers.

How many self-employed people are there in British Columbia?

There were 394,700 self-employed workers in B.C. in 2014.[8] Of these, the largest group were unincorporated and working on their own with no paid help. The incorporated self-employed are fewer in number but more likely to have paid help.

In 2014, the overall number of self-employed workers in B.C. dipped 4.7 per cent, or approximately 19,400 fewer workers.

Among the self-employed in B.C., sole operators are more common than employers with staff. This is not surprising, given that businesses often begin with one individual running a business, then take on employees as the business grows.

Between 2009 and 2014, the number of self-employed persons with employees, regardless of incorporation status, declined at a much faster rate (-14.6 per cent) than those without paid help (-7.3 per cent). This pattern held true in 2014, as the decrease among the self-employed with staff (-8.5 per cent) was much larger than that of those without staff (-3.2 per cent).

What is the profile of a self-employed person in British Columbia?

On average, self-employed people tend to be older, are more often men, work longer hours and are less likely to be Aboriginal compared to employees.

While 40 per cent of employees are under the age of 35, just 17 per cent of self-employed

business owners fit this description. At the other end of the scale, 32 per cent of self-employed are aged 55 and over, compared to a mere 17 per cent of employees.

There are a number of reasons for the different age structure of self-employed persons and employees. Many younger people lack the skills and capital to start and operate a business. By comparison, for older workers, self-employment may be used as a transition from working at a full-time job to moving into retirement. As self-employed business owners reach potential retirement age, they might be more prone to carry on working as they are the main decision-makers of their businesses. Employees, on the other hand, may be more inclined to retire to collect the pension and/or retirement package available to them.

On average, the self-employed tend to retire at an older age than the general workforce. The median retirement age (the age at which half of retirees are older and half younger) for all Canadian retirees in 2014 was 63.3 years, nearly two years older than just five years prior (61.7 in 2009). By comparison, the median retirement age for the self-employed in 2014 was 65.8 years of age, relatively unchanged from 2009 (65.6 years), but significantly higher than that of the average Canadian.

Gender is another factor distinguishing the self-employed from employees. Self-employed individuals are more often male and employees are slightly more likely to be female. In 2014, close to two-thirds of B.C.'s self-employed were men. However, entrepreneurial women have a substantial presence in business, both in B.C. and in the rest of the country. Approximately 37 per cent of all business owners in B.C. in 2014 were women, above the national average of 36 per cent.

The trends in self-employment ofAboriginal British Columbians provide some insight into the diversity of small business owners in the province. Aboriginal people living off-reserve are less likely to be self-employed compared to non-Aboriginal people. In 2014, 15 per cent of Aboriginal people in B.C. were self-employed, compared to 18 per cent of non-Aboriginal people who worked for themselves. This represents the smallest gap between percentage of self-employed Aboriginal people and self-employed non-Aboriginal people in a decade. This was mainly due to a drop in non-Aboriginal self-employment. One explanation for the persistent gap may be the younger age distribution of Aboriginal people relative to the overall population, given the older age composition of self-employed individuals compared to those who are employees.

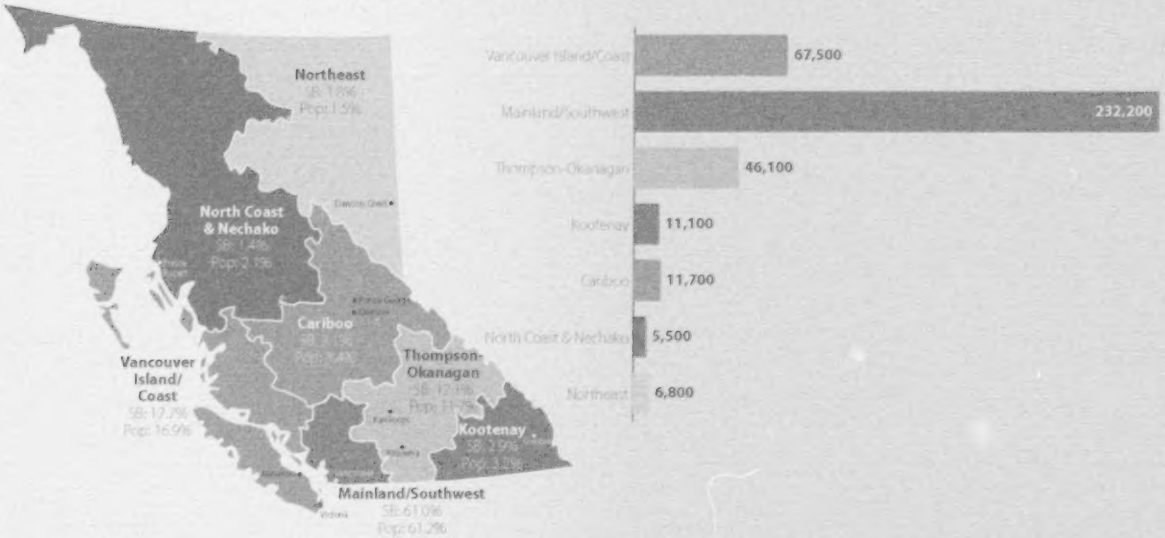
How do the self-employed differ from employees with respect to hours worked?

Differences in the number of hours worked per week also distinguishes the self-employed from employees. On average, the self-employed have much longer work days than employees. One quarter (25 per cent) of self-employed individuals work 50 or more hours per week, compared to just four per cent of employees. In 2014, the average work week for self-employed workers was 36.9 hours, compared to 34.9 hours for employees. The disparity in work hours between the self-employed and employees has remained relatively unchanged over the last decade.

In other parts of the country, the self-employed work even longer hours. Nationally, the average work week for self-employed workers was 39.1 hours, more than two hours longer than the B.C. average. Almost 30 per cent of Canadian self-employed workers averaged 50 hours or more per week in 2014.

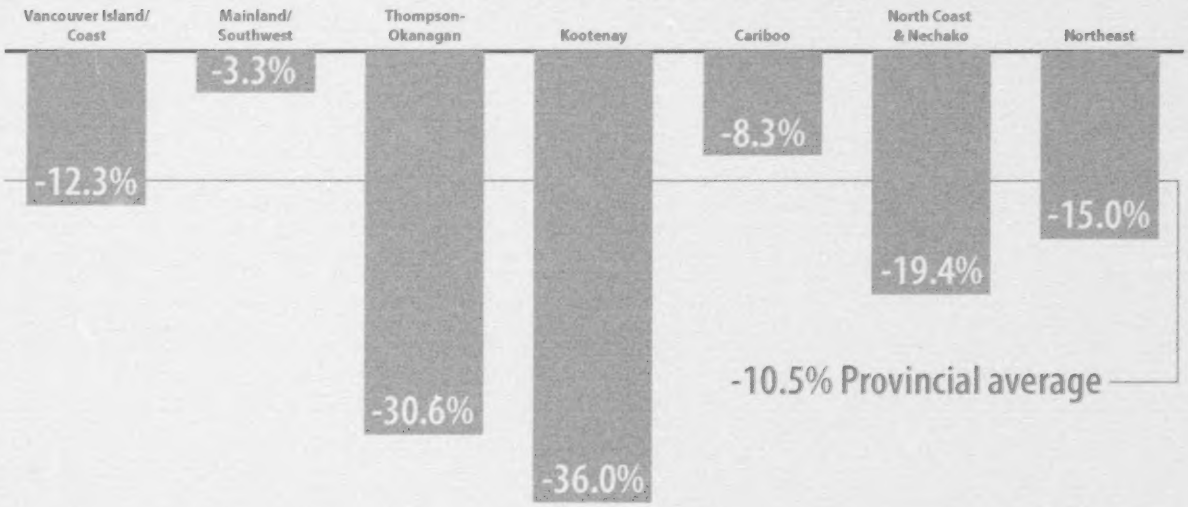
4 Small Business Regions

FIGURE 4.1: REGIONAL FOCUS: SMALL BUSINESS DISTRIBUTION (2014)



Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

FIGURE 4.2: REGIONAL FOCUS: SELF-EMPLOYMENT GROWTH RATE (2009-2014)



Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

Small Business Regions

Regional Summaries

Mainland/Southwest: Mainland/Southwest is the province's largest region by population, but the smallest in terms of land mass. Many of the province's jobs in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, and in professional scientific and technical services are concentrated in this region. It is also the hub for B.C.'s technology and film sectors. Most employment in the region is in the service sector.

Vancouver Island/Coast: A considerable proportion of B.C.'s public administration jobs are located in the region, reflecting the presence of the provincial capital in Victoria. Tourism is also a significant industry in this region and there is a considerable presence in the high technology sector.

Thompson-Okanagan: With a higher share of seniors, the median age of the region's population is significantly higher than the provincial median age. A large share of B.C.'s agriculture and utilities jobs are located in the region.

Kootenay: Mining – particularly coal mining – plays a large role in the economy of the Kootenay region and many of the province's mining jobs are located there. A comparatively large percentage of jobs in the Kootenay region are in goods sector industries.

Cariboo: Cariboo is one of the smaller regions in the province, containing only four per cent of the province's population, but most of these people live in urban areas. The forest sector is one of the main economic drivers in the region and the Cariboo is home to a large share of provincial employment in forestry and logging, as well as wood and paper manufacturing.

North Coast and Nechako: North Coast and Nechako are actually two separate economic regions, but are sparsely populated and are often combined. The region has been a hub of activity in recent years with several major projects either under construction, or in the planning stage, in the mining, manufacturing and energy sectors.

Northeast: Northeast is the least populated region in the province and has by far the youngest median age in the province. A large portion of the region's population lives in rural areas. Many of B.C.'s jobs in the natural gas and oil industry are located in the region.

Which regions have the greatest number of small businesses?

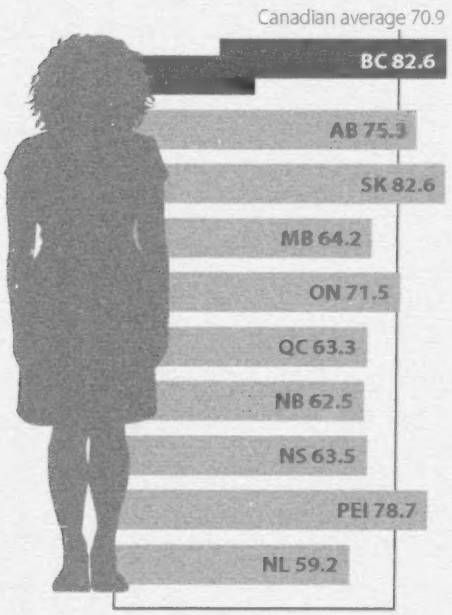
Predictably, B.C.'s most heavily populated regions account for the province's largest shares of small businesses. The relative importance of small business within each region is made clearer by comparing the distribution of businesses to share of population. In 2014, the Mainland/Southwest region, which includes Greater Vancouver, was home to about 61 per cent of the province's small businesses, on par with its 61 per cent share of total provincial population. By contrast, the second most populous region, Vancouver Island/Coast, housed 18 per cent of small businesses, marginally higher than its 17 per cent share of B.C.'s population.

How does self-employment compare by region?

While self-employment decreased for the province as a whole from 2009 to 2014, there was considerable variation in rates of decline between regions. For example, self-employment in Mainland/Southwest slipped just 3.3 per cent over the period, while Kootenay experienced the sharpest drop (-36.0 per cent).

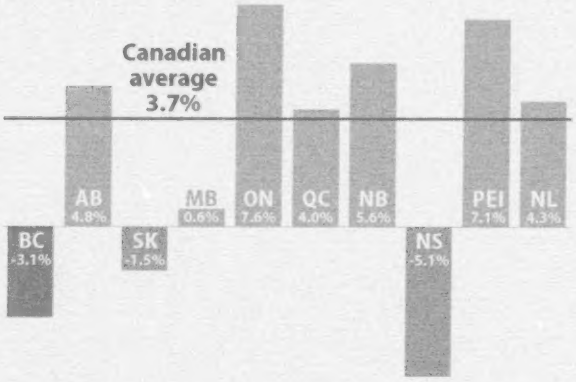
5 Provincial Comparisons

FIGURE 5.1: PROVINCIAL COMPARISON:
SMALL BUSINESS PER 1000 PEOPLE (2014)



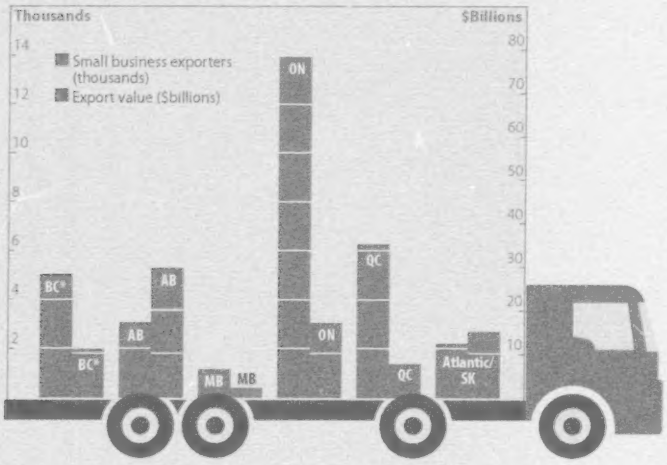
Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

FIGURE 5.2: PROVINCIAL COMPARISON:
SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH
(2009-2014 JUNE OVER JUNE)



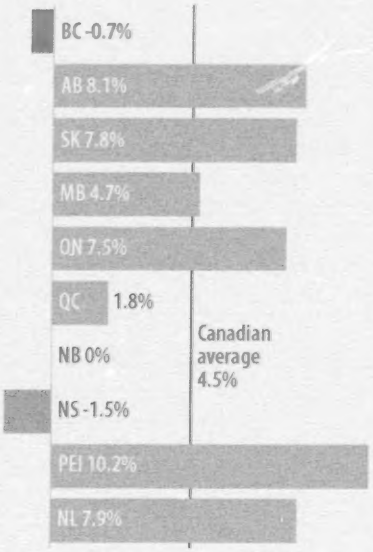
Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

FIGURE 5.3: PROVINCIAL COMPARISON:
EXPORT INTENSITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES (2013)



*Includes data for the Territories (see Endnote 5)
Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

FIGURE 5.4: PROVINCIAL COMPARISON:
SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT GROWTH
(2009-2014)



Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

Provincial Comparisons

In terms of small businesses per capita, B.C. ranked first (tied with Saskatchewan) among the provinces, with 82.6 small businesses per 1,000 people.

Between June 2009 and June 2014, the number of small businesses in B.C. slipped 3.1 per cent, below the national average growth rate of 3.7 per cent. Nova Scotia (-5.1 per cent) and Saskatchewan (-1.5 per cent) were the only other provinces to register declines.

How do British Columbia small business exporters compare to those in other parts of the country?

In 2013, there were 31,611 small business exporters in Canada. Of these, 13,914, or 44 per cent of all Canadian small business exporters, were located in Ontario. This was more than double the number in second-ranked Quebec (6,253, or 20 per cent of Canada's total). B.C. ranked third with 16 per cent, followed by Alberta with 10 per cent.

There was considerable provincial variation in the export intensity (that is, the average value of exports per exporter) of small businesses. In 2013, Canadian small business exporters averaged $2.6 million in exports per firm; however, Alberta small business exporters shipped $9.7 million worth of goods, on average. Despite being home to only 10 per cent of Canadian small business exporters, Alberta was responsible for 36 per cent of Canadian small business commodity exports, worth $29.7 billion.[9]

B.C. averaged around $2.2 million in exports per small business exporter, with 5,032 small businesses shipping approximately $11.0 billion worth of goods. The export intensity for small business exporters in both Ontario and Quebec was $1.2 million per firm. Small exporters in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan[10] shipped an average of $10.5 million per firm, the highest ratio across Canada.

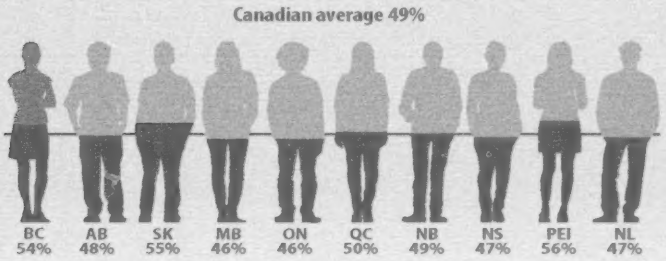
How did small business employment fare in other provinces?

Small business growth in B.C. was -0.7 per cent between 2009 and 2014. Prince Edward Island led the nation with an increase of 10.2 per cent, well above the national growth rate of 4.5 per cent, while Nova Scotia experienced the most substantial decline (-1.5 per cent).

Significant variation exists among the provinces with regard to small business employment, likely due to regional differences in economic structure. For example, Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island have substantial agricultural and fishing sectors, respectively, and these sectors are commonly characterized by smaller operations with fewer employees. By contrast, Ontario is more likely to have a higher percentage of employment in large business, being one of the country's manufacturing hubs (particularly in the automotive industry). B.C. has a larger service sector than other provinces, which may account for a stronger representation of small business employees (54 per cent of private sector employment in 2014).

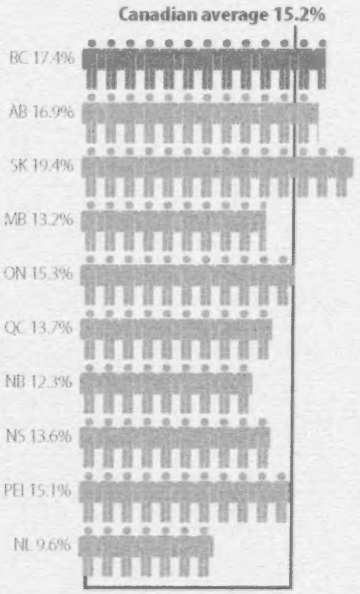
In B.C., at 17.4 per cent, self-employed workers' share of total employment was among the highest in the country in 2014, more than two percentage points above the Canadian average. Only Saskatchewan had a higher proportion of self-employed, at 19.4 per cent, while Newfoundland and Labrador had the smallest ratio of self-employed to total employment, at 9.6 per cent.

FIGURE 5.5: PROVINCIAL COMPARISON: PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT SMALL BUSINESS AS A PER CENT (2014)



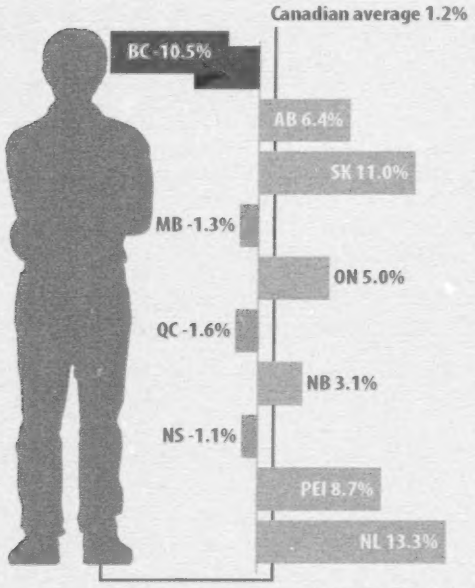
Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

FIGURE 5-6: PROVINCIAL COMPARISON: SELF-EMPLOYMENT AS A PER CENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT (2014)



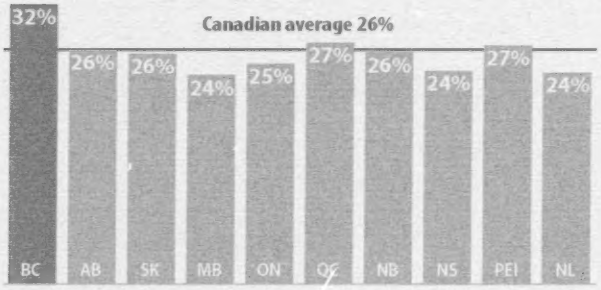
Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

FIGURE 5.7: PROVINCIAL COMPARISON: SELF-EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (2009-2014)



Source: Statistics Canada / Prepared by BC Stats

FIGURE 5.8: PROVINCIAL COMPARISON: SMALL BUSINESS SHARE OF TOTAL PAYROLL (2014)



Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

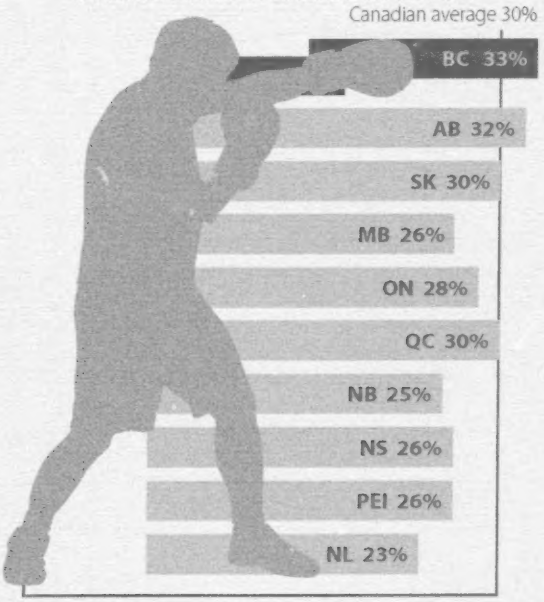
From 2009 to 2014, B.C. experienced a 10.5 per cent decrease in self-employment. This was by far the most substantial drop in self-employment among the provinces. For Canada as a whole, self-employment rose 1.2 per cent over the same five-year period. Ontario (+5.0 per cent) and Alberta (+6.4 per cent) were responsible for much of the growth at the national level.

How does British Columbia compare in terms of the portion of total payroll generated by small business?

B.C. has the highest reliance on small business payrolls in Canada. In 2014, small business accounted for nearly a third (just under 32 per cent) of wages paid to workers, well above the Canadian average of just over 26 per cent. The predominance of small businesses in B.C., relative to other provinces, is one reason for the higher portion of payroll generated by the small business sector. Another factor is that wages in industries that are less prevalent in B.C., such as agriculture, tend to be lower. This can affect the size of payrolls in provinces that rely more heavily on these industries.

6 Contribution to the Economy and Trends

FIGURE 6.1: PROVINCIAL COMPARISON:
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
SMALL BUSINESS CONTRIBUTION (2014)



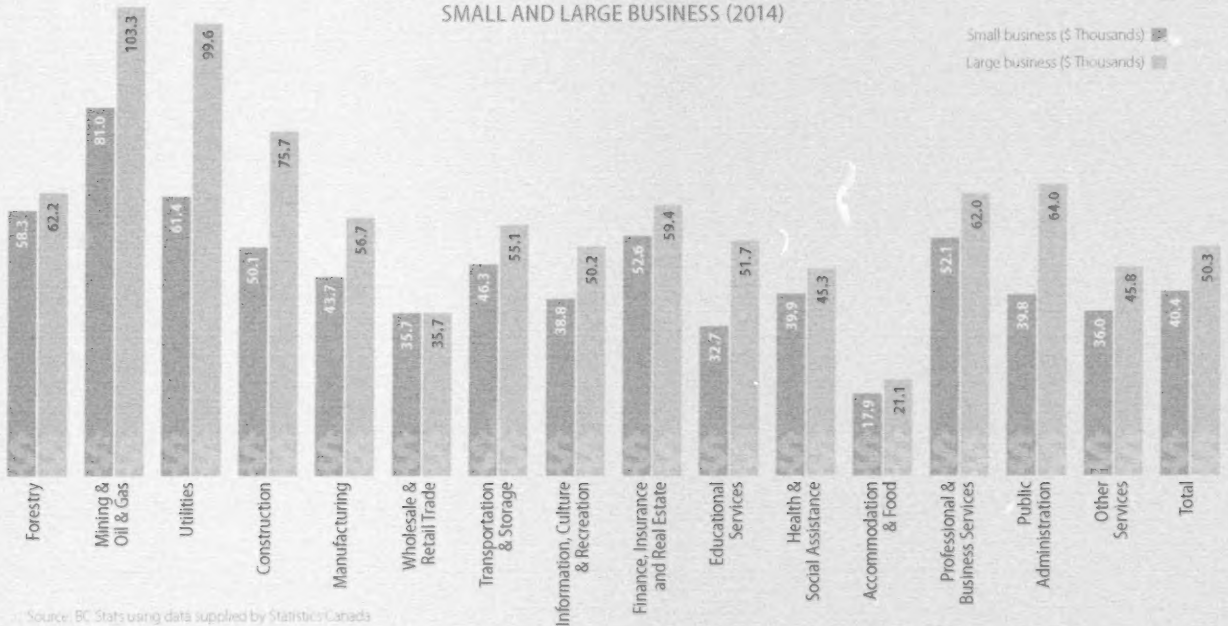
Source: BC Stats

FIGURE 6.2: AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS:
CHANGE OVER TIME
SMALL AND LARGE BUSINESS (2009-2014)

	Small Business	Large Business
Earnings 2009 (payroll/employee)	$ 37,447	$ 43,566
Earnings 2014 (payroll/employee)	$ 40,217	$ 50,177
Per cent change	**7.4%**	**15.2%**

Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

FIGURE 6.3: AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS: BY INDUSTRY
SMALL AND LARGE BUSINESS (2014)



Source: BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

Contribution to the Economy and Trends

How large is the contribution of small business to British Columbia's economy?

The small business sector is a key component of the provincial economy. Its contributions include providing jobs and meeting payrolls that help support families and stimulate further economic activity, as well as delivering goods and services to the residents of British Columbia.

One way of measuring the economic contribution of a sector is by calculating its gross domestic product (GDP), which represents the value the sector adds to the materials and services it uses.

In 2014, B.C.'s small business sector accounted for 33 per cent of the provincial GDP, well above the Canadian average of 30 per cent.[11] This measure indicates that small business in B.C. plays a more significant role in the provincial economy than it does in most other parts of the country. The significant contribution of small business is, in part, attributable to B.C.'s traditional orientation to the service sector more than most other provinces. At the same time, much of the nation's growth in small businesses has been concentrated in service sector industries. The proportion was lowest in Newfoundland and Labrador (23 per cent), which could reflect the increased role of large business in the offshore oil industry in that province's economy.

How does average pay compare between small and large businesses?

On average, small businesses tend to pay their employees lower wages compared to larger businesses. There are several possible reasons that employees of small business are willing to work for somewhat less than their large business counterparts. Small businesses may make up much of this wage disparity by offering benefits that may not be possible in some larger businesses. These benefits may include more flexible working hours, greater input into the company's direction and gaining experience working in a variety of roles. Data about employee salaries separate small and large business but do not distinguish between private and public sectors.

In 2014, the average small business employee earned an annual salary of $40,217, compared to $50,177 for employees of large business, which amounts to a difference of almost $10,000. It is likely that at least part of this wage gap is related to productivity. Larger firms tend to be more productive than small businesses because they can take advantage of economies of scale and can better afford necessary capital improvements, such as machinery and technological equipment that can substitute for low-skilled labour. Consequently, larger firms often achieve more output per employee and can therefore afford to pay their employees higher wages. Another possible factor in the wage difference is that small businesses are far less likely to be unionized. In general, employees who belong to unions tend to earn higher wages than non-unionized employees.

How does average pay compare across industries for small versus large businesses?

In 2014, wages in businesses with 50 or more employees were higher than those in small businesses over all major industry groupings. The largest wage gap was in utilities, where large businesses paid employees almost $38,200 more, on average, than those in small business. The smallest gap was for workers in the wholesale and retail trade industry, where small business employees earned only $60 less on an average annual basis than did employees of larger firms.

6 Contribution to the Economy and Trends

Success Stories

Awesense

https://youtu.be/oTEDkSXtcNg

Meet Mischa Steiner-Jovic, the CEO of Awesense, a B.C. small business offering Business Intelligence solutions to help energy companies reduce losses within their energy grid. Mischa shares how Awesense has benefited from the BC Venture Acceleration Program, an initiative of the B.C. Innovation Council.

Mischa Steiner-Jovic
CEO, Awesense

Soirée Planners and Soirée Lounge

https://youtu.be/5zpgPjKXkb4

Learn how the Women's Enterprise Centre and Small Business BC helped Kim Trehan realize her dream of owning her own business. Her event planning businesses, Soirée Planners and Soirée Lounge, are now in the growth stage and Kim is once again working with Small Business BC for support in taking her businesses to the next level.

Kim Trehan
Owner/Operator, Soirée Planners and Soirée Lounge

Fully Managed

https://youtu.be/Ceozku7WxdM

Joel Abramson, Vice-President of Fully Managed Inc., a managed service company based in Vancouver, speaks about the high growth that the company has experienced over the last couple of years and how the company's Small Business BC Award for Best Employer in 2014 has helped attract and retain quality employees and clients.

Joel Abramson
Vice-President, Fully Managed

For businesses of any size, employees in the accommodation and food sector earned by far the lowest wages, on average. The highest wage earners were those in mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction.[12]

How has small business been trending and what is the outlook for the future?

From June 2009 to June 2014, the count of small businesses in B.C. fell 3.1 per cent due to a 9.8 per cent decline in the number of sole proprietor businesses. The count of small businesses with employees actually grew 5.8 per cent over the same period. By comparison, there was a 3.6 per cent rise in the number of larger businesses with 50 or more employees.

Employment followed a similar pattern with total employment in small businesses dipping 0.7 per cent from 2009 to 2014, resulting from a 10.5 per cent drop in the number of self-employed. Employees of small businesses climbed 6.8 per cent over the same period, while employment in large businesses jumped 9.8 per cent.

Economic conditions likely have been the primary reason for the changes in self-employment over the last several years. The economy was in a deep recession in 2009 and there was a spike in self-employment, which was likely the result of a lack of opportunities for paid employment. In the ensuing years, as the economy recovered, some of those self-employed returned to paid employment, which is why there was a concurrent drop in the number of self-employed and an increase in the number of paid employees.

While a labour forecast with business size information is not available for B.C., the British Columbia Labour Market Outlook does offer some possible insights into what the future may hold for small businesses in the province. The forecast to 2024 suggests that much of the employment growth in the province will be concentrated in industries in which small business is more prevalent.

An aging population will boost demand for health services, which is reflected in the fact that the health and social services sector is expected to see the highest rate of growth in employment over the next decade. There will also be strong growth in the number of jobs in the professional, scientific and management industry, as well as finance, insurance and real estate, both of which are predominantly oriented toward smaller business operations.

The baby boom generation will be retiring in greater numbers over the next decade, which will have a profound effect on the labour force; however, it is difficult to say what kind of impact this will have on small businesses, in particular. While participation in the labour force starts to decline around the age of 55, the self-employed tend to retire later than the overall workforce. Many small business owners have a passion for their business and may delay retirement as a result. In addition, some retirees from paid employment may choose self-employment as a bridge toward permanent retirement, which could provide a boost to small business numbers. However, according to a 2011 TD Waterhouse Business Succession Poll, almost a quarter of Canadian small business owners surveyed planned to shut down the business upon retirement, so there could also be a drop in small business numbers if these survey results are reflective of the attitudes of small business owners in British Columbia.

Technical Notes

All statistics presented in this document are based on the best data currently available. A comprehensive listing of all businesses operating in B.C. or elsewhere does not exist; therefore, business counts must be estimated to some extent. BC Stats has combined data from several sources to produce estimates of the total number of large and small businesses operating in B.C. and other provinces, as well as the employment and payrolls generated by these businesses.

The results may differ from estimates produced in other studies using different data and different methodologies. Differences will potentially be more in terms of absolute numbers, rather than the direction of trends or the relative standing of B.C. compared to other provinces. This edition of the *Small Business Profile* incorporates statistical revisions, such that year-over-year comparisons should not be made using previous editions.

Data Sources

Estimates of the number of businesses have been produced using data from Statistics Canada's *Business Register* and *Labour Force Survey*. Estimates of employment and payrolls have been produced using Statistics Canada's *Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours* and *Labour Force Survey*. All self-employment numbers have been obtained directly from the *Labour Force Survey*. Data describing small business exporters are derived from Statistics Canada's *Trade by Enterprise Characteristics – Exporter* program.

Prepared by:

Jade Norton, BC Stats
Dan Schrier, BC Stats
Lillian Hallin, BC Stats

Glossary

Small business

Although there are a number of different ways a small business can be defined, the most commonly used definition focuses on the number of employees. In B.C., a small business is defined as one with fewer than 50 employees, or a business operated by a person who is self-employed, without paid help. (Back)

Incorporated businesses

Incorporated businesses consist of those organized and maintained as legal corporations. A corporation is created (incorporated) by one or more shareholders who have ownership of the corporation, represented by their holding of common stock. (Back)

Self-employed

Self-employed individuals are defined as individuals who spend most of their working hours operating their own businesses. The self-employed can be categorized as either *incorporated* or *unincorporated*. Each of these classifications can be further divided between those operating *with paid help* (i.e., with employees) or *without paid help* (i.e., working by themselves). This produces four major categories of self-employed workers. (Back)

Unincorporated businesses

Unincorporated businesses consist of those not organized and maintained as legal corporations, and wherein the tie between members need not be a legally enforceable contract. (Back)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is an industry classification system used in Canada, the United States and Mexico, which is designed to provide common definitions of the industrial structure of the three countries. NAICS is Statistics Canada's comprehensive system encompassing all economic activities. It has a hierarchical structure: at the highest level, it divides the economy into 20 sectors; at lower levels, it further distinguishes the different economic activities in which businesses are engaged. (Back)

Non-Standard Sector Definitions

Tourism includes industries such as transportation, accommodation, food services and other tourism-related activities. (Further information on the tourism sector is available online) (Back)

High technology industries may employ a high proportion of scientists and researchers or invest a high proportion of revenues in research and development. Other industries that produce high technology products are also included. (Further information on the high technology sector is available online) (Back)

Secondary manufacturing industries are those that produce goods from the products of other manufacturers. For example, a sawmill is a manufacturing operation, but not a secondary manufacturer, because its logs do not come from another manufacturer. On the other hand, a factory producing wooden doors with lumber obtained from sawmills is a secondary manufacturer. (Back)

Glossary

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) refers to the total market value of all the goods and services produced within national or provincial borders during a specified period. The growth rates of GDP provide an indication of how well an industry or an economy is doing. The GDP of an industry (also referred to as value added) equals output by the industry minus the value of intermediate inputs that were purchased from other industries, domestic or foreign. Value added is a measure of how much an industry has contributed to the value of its output over and above the value of intermediate inputs. GDP by industry for the economy as a whole is the sum of values added by all industries resident in Canada. (Back)

Small Business Exporter

For the purposes of this report, a small business exporter is defined as an enterprise with fewer than 50 employees that exports goods out of the country, regardless of the value of exports. Small firms can be large exporters and, conversely, some large firms are small exporters. While shipments of goods to other provinces and services provided to out-of-province residents or businesses are also considered exports, such data tabulated by business size are unavailable. (Back)

Endnotes

[1] Starting with the December 2014 reference period, Statistics Canada has made a number of changes to the Business Register database, the source of the count of small businesses with employees. As a result, there is a break in the data, such that growth rates cannot be calculated using the December data. The Business Register is published bi-annually in June and December. Since the data break occurred with the December data, it is still possible to calculate growth up to June 2014. Accordingly, all rates of growth for business counts reported in this document are on a June-over-June basis.

[2] In 2014, there were 11,987 small businesses for which the industry was unclassified. These businesses are included in the total of small businesses, but are excluded from the industry share calculations.

[3] Data for self-employment by industry are only available at a large industry aggregation and cannot be calculated for non-standard industries, such as high technology and tourism. Therefore, in order to maintain consistency and to enable a finer examination by industry, the industry figures are for businesses with paid employees only and may differ from other parts of this report. Industry comparisons in this section are at a three digit NAICS level of detail. Further information and detailed industry descriptions are available on Statistics Canada's website.

[4] Data for industries with fewer than 100 small businesses are excluded from ranking in the sub-sector growth analysis in order to avoid inflated growth rates for industries with smaller numbers of businesses (e.g., an increase of one business in an industry with just one business to begin with would equal a 100 per cent rate of growth).

[5] There is a one-year lag in the availability of data for exports by businesses tabulated by employee size and, as a result, 2013 is the latest year for which data are available. In addition, in order to meet confidentiality requirements, Statistics Canada has grouped the Territories (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut) into a region with B.C., such that the data for B.C. include exporters in the Territories. This should not significantly influence the small business numbers as most of the exports from the Territories are diamonds from the Northwest Territories, which are generally large business exports. Although the value of exports for large businesses is likely overstated, the numbers for small businesses in B.C. are probably inflated by less than one per cent.

[6] In the exporter data, a business is defined at the enterprise level, rather than at the location level that is used to determine overall small business counts. Enterprises can include more than one business location and, while each of these locations can export goods, for the purposes of the exporter data, it is the enterprise as a whole that represents the exporter. This is a change from past years when the statistical unit of measure for exporter data was the establishment. As such, comparisons should not be made with data from earlier editions of this report.

[7] Note that data on employment by size of business are not available for the non-standard sectors.

Endnotes

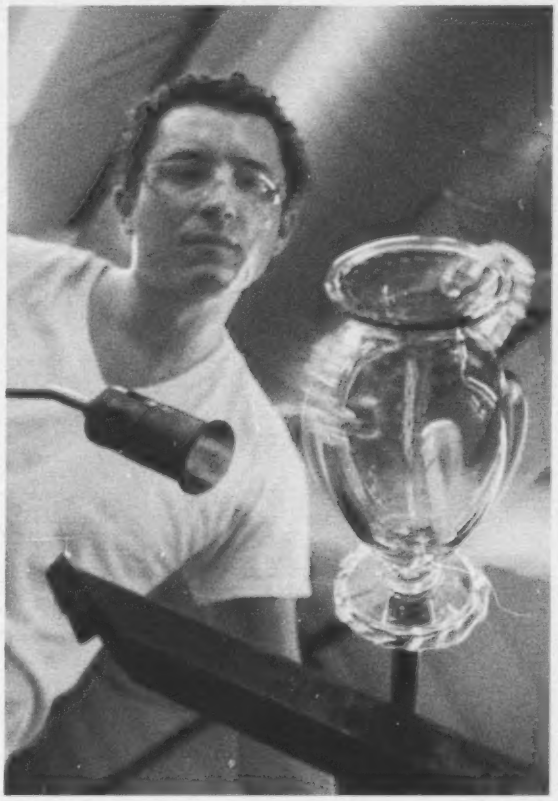
[8] This excludes unpaid family workers. With those workers included, the total number of self-employed in the province was 395,900 in 2014.

[9] While a cross-tabulation by province, industry and business size is not available, data for business of all sizes indicates that the mining, oil and gas sector in Alberta was responsible for only 35 per cent of the province's exports in 2013, despite the fact that oil and gas exports alone represented almost three-quarters of Alberta's total commodity exports. Businesses in the wholesale trade and business services industries together exported around 41 per cent of the province's total exports, which could indicate that oil and gas producers may be hiring small firms in those sectors to export their goods. This would explain the higher export intensity for small business exporters in Alberta, relative to the other provinces.

[10] Data for these two provinces have been suppressed due to confidentiality concerns and their sum has been calculated residually. Energy exports represent a large portion of total exports in both these provinces, particularly New Brunswick, so the theory explaining Alberta's high export intensity may apply to these provinces as well.

[11] The small business GDP estimates presented in this report incorporate revisions to the GDP data presented and reported in the System of National Accounts as well as new information from Industry Canada's Financial Performance Data (2013). Note that these GDP shares are not exact figures and should not be used to calculate actual dollar amounts.

[12] The wage data are from Statistics Canada's *Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours*, which does not include data for the agriculture and fisheries industries. Data for the accommodation and food sector does not include gratuities.



Small Business Resources

HOW B.C. HELPS SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Small Business Roundtable – established in 2005 to engage in a dialogue with small business owners to identify key issues and opportunities facing small businesses, developing recommendations for small business and government on strategies to enhance small business growth and success. **www.smallbusinessroundtable.ca**

Regulatory Reform – Whether you're a business owner or a citizen accessing government programs or services, you don't want to spend a long time filling out forms and searching government websites. That's why the Government of British Columbia has been working steadily on Regulatory Reform since 2001 to streamline services and eliminate the burden of excessive and unnecessary regulatory requirements on B.C.'s citizens and businesses. **www.gov.bc.ca/regulatoryreform**

Small Business Accord – The B.C. Government created the Small Business Accord to improve interactions with small business and ensure government initiatives and services consider the needs of small business to help foster a progressive business culture where government initiatives support current and future generations of small business owners across B.C. **www.gov.bc.ca/smallbusinessaccord**

ONLINE GUIDES AND PUBLICATIONS

Starting a Small Business Guide *(in English and 4 translated languages)*
www.resourcecentre.gov.bc.ca/pdf/Start_SmlBusiness.pdf

Small Business Highlights Page
http://www.resourcecentre.gov.bc.ca/pdf/SB-Highlights.pdf

A Guide to Doing Business with the Government of B.C.
www.resourcecentre.gov.bc.ca/pdf/Guide.pdf

Import / Export Guide *(in English and 4 translated languages))*
www.resourcecentre.gov.bc.ca/pdf/ImptExptGuideEng.pdf

Starting a Restaurant in B.C.
www.gov.bc.ca/startingarestaurant

More publications and guides
www.resourcecentre.gov.bc.ca/publications.html

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

- Business Advisory Services
- Government Service
- Tools and Resources
- Education
- Financing
- Online Registration
- Permits and Licences
- Mentorship
- Export

Small Business BC
B.C.'s key resource centre for comprehensive small business information and services. Funded by the provincial and federal governments, SBBC can assist you with business planning, financing, registration and any other topics related to starting and growing a business in B.C. **www.smallbusinessbc.ca**

OneStop Business Registry
Complete the most commonly required business registrations and transactions online. Ph: 1 877 822-6727 **www.bcbusinessregistry.ca**

BizPaL
Offered in partnership by the provincial, federal and participating local governments, BizPaL is an online service that provides simplified access to information about business permits and licences that may be required for a particular business type and its related activities. **www.bcbizpal.ca**

Community Futures British Columbia
Delivering a variety of services ranging from strategic economic and succession planning, technical and advisory services, loans, self-employment assistance, and services targeted to youth and entrepreneurs with disabilities. There are 34 offices in B.C. offering counselling and assistance for new and existing businesses.
Ph: 604 685-2332
www.communityfutures.ca

Futurpreneur
Provides mentoring services and loans to grow the economy one young entrepreneur at a time. Ph: 1 866 646-2922
www.futurpreneur.ca

MentorshipBC
Created in response to demand from B.C. small business owners – if you've been looking for a mentor simply use the search tool on the MentorshipBC homepage to find a mentorship program that works for you.
www.mentorshipbc.ca

Address Change BC
If you are moving within British Columbia, you can use Address Change BC to update your business records with provincial and local government organizations.
www.addresschange.gov.bc.ca

BCBid
Access, create, browse and compete on public sector business opportunities. A simplified two-page request for proposal form allows business owners to quickly and easily bid for government contracts and increase opportunities to grow their business.
Enquiry BC line: 1 800 663-7867
www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca

eTaxBC
Provincial sales tax help, including tools and services for business operators, a toll-free helpline and online support for questions or webinars about sales tax. Ph: 1 877 388-4440
www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/sales-taxes/pst

Employers' Advisers Office
Providing independent advice, assistance, representation and education to employers, potential employers and employer associations concerning workers' compensation issues. Ph: 1 800 925-2233
www.labour.gov.bc.ca/eao/

BritishColumbia.ca
The Province's trade and investment website is the digital hub for promoting B.C. internationally. The website helps communities showcase their strengths and highlights business opportunities on the global stage.
www.britishcolumbia.ca/invest

Investment Capital Programs
Offering tax credits to investors making equity capital investments in British Columbia based small businesses. Ph: 1 800 665-6597
www.equitycapital.gov.bc.ca

Women's Enterprise Centre
B.C.'s leading resource for women entrepreneurs, offering skills development, business loans, free business guidance, business resources, mentoring, networking and events. Ph: 1 800 643-7014
www.womensenterprise.ca

Aboriginal Business Service Network
A collective of Aboriginal business service providers in B.C. who enhance access to business information and resources for Aboriginal entrepreneurs.
www.absn.ca

Service BC
Province-wide access to government services including key government transactions for business – in person, online or over the phone.
Service BC Contact Centre: 1 800 663-7867
www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca

BC Online
Access to e-government services for legal, business, government and professionals. Online information is available for the corporate registry, property assessments and court services.
www.bconline.gov.bc.ca

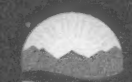
Corporate Online
Provides online filings to create and maintain companies in British Columbia.
www.corporateonline.gov.bc.ca

FrontCounter BC
A single window service for natural resource clients of provincial resource ministries and agencies to obtain all the information and authorizations they need to start or expand a business.
Enquiry BC line: 1 800 663-7867
www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca

WorkBC.ca
WorkBC is committed to help British Columbian's successfully navigate B.C.'s labour market. Search the comprehensive job board or use up- to-date labour market information to help guide your education and career path. Ph: 1 877 952-6914
www.workbc.ca

LNG-Buy BC
Created to connect LNG project proponents with B.C. companies large and small in every corner of British Columbia. The government of British Columbia is working to ensure the entire B.C. business community can participate fully in LNG and other major project opportunities; LNG-Buy BC where buyers connect with suppliers.
https://lngbuybc.force.com/

Western Economic Diversification Canada
Working to diversify the western economy, by supporting business development through initiatives like the Western Innovation Initiative to assist small and medium sized enterprises to commercialize new and innovative technologies. Ph: 1 888 338-937
www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/



Ministry of
Small Business and
Red Tape Reduction

BCStats

Small Business Branch
Box 9822 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9N3
p. 250.387.4699
f. 250.952.0113
www..gov.bc.ca

563 Superior St. Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1
p. 1.800.663.7867
www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca
BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca
Twitter: @BCStats